

Amendment/Response**Reply to Final Office Action of December 16, 2003****Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) An LCD system capable of fast mode operation with high contrast, said system comprising:

a) a source of polarized lights;

b) an LC cell having a surface upon which said light is incident, wherein said cell includes LC bulk material contained between and adjoining an upper and a lower glass substrate, said upper substrate having said surface;

an optically uniform-anisotropic intermediate layer interposed between said upper substrate and said LC material; and

wherein said cell includes LC bulk material contained between and adjoining an upper and a lower glass substrate and adjoining said lower glass substrate, said upper substrate having said surface.; and

wherein said intermediate layer is oriented in the same plane as said LC bulk material.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 3 wherein said intermediate optically uniform-anisotropic layer is an LC polymer having a predetermined director profile.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 3 wherein said optically uniform-anisotropic intermediate layer comprises a photo polymer.

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- | 6. (currently amended) The system of claim 3 wherein said optically uniform-anisotropic intermediate layer is evaporated obliquely between said upper and lower glass substrates.
- | 7. (currently amended) The system of claim 3 wherein said optically uniform-anisotropic intermediate layer is etched by an oblique particle beam.
- | 8. (currently amended) The system of claim 3 wherein said optically uniform-anisotropic intermediate layer is milled.

9-13. cancelled